

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 104092 TOSEC 110400

11

ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PER-01 IO-03 SSO-00 CCO-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:WGRAMSAY:JWM

APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

M/DG:MR.WORTZEL

IO/UNP:JBAKER

AF/W:TWMSMITH

AF/EX:EGKRYZA

S/S:JLHOGANSON

S: RAHERNE

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O 300347Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 104092 TOSEC 110400

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IV, USUN, APER (SMITH, ROBERT S.)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - PROPOSED RESPONSE TO MESSAGE

FROM PRESIDENT OF IVORY COAST (S/S NO.7608963 )

REFS: USUN 1784; STATE 103217 (TOSEC 319)

FOR SECRETARY FROM SEELYE THROUGH SCHAUFEL

THE PROBLEM

IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAD HIS PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE AT UN, AMBASSADOR AKE, PASS MESSAGE TO YOU  
THROUGH GOVERNOR SCRANTON EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL REGRET  
THAT PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS IN EUROPE PREVENTED HIS BEING  
IN IVORY COAST DURING YOUR VISIT TO AFRICA. PRESIDENT  
HOUPHOUET EXPRESSED HIS GREAT RESPECT FOR OUR AMBASSADOR  
IN ABIDJAN, ROBERT S. SMITH, AND HIS HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 104092 TOSEC 110400

SMITH'S "RECALL" COULD BE CANCELLED. THE PRESIDENT WANTED

YOU TO KNOW PERSONALLY THAT HE HOPED THAT THERE WAS NO  
LINKAGE BETWEEN HIS ABSENCE FROM AFRICA DURING YOUR TRIP  
AND THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR SMITH.

GOVERNOR SCRANTON HAS REQUESTED YOUR GUIDANCE IN RELAYING  
A RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT THROUGH AMBASSADOR AKE.

BACKGROUND

WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WOULD  
BE IN EUROPE FROM MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY, YOU DECIDED TO  
DELETE IVORY COAST FROM THE ITINERARY OF YOUR AFRICA  
TRIP. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, BUT IN NO WAY CONNECTED  
WITH THIS DECISION, AMBASSADOR SMITH WAS INFORMED THAT HE  
WOULD BE RE-ASSIGNED AT THE CONCLUSION OF A NORMAL TOUR  
OF DUTY IN ABIDJAN (HE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS  
APRIL 12, 1974). WE EXPECT AMBASSADOR SMITH TO DEPART  
FROM ABIDJAN IN MID-MAY.

RECOMMENDATION:

M/DG, IO AND AF RECOMMEND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE GOVERNOR  
SCRANTON TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR AKE  
FOR PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I TOO VERY MUCH REGRET THAT  
YOUR PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS IN EUROPE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR ME TO MEET WITH YOU IN THE COURSE OF MY PRESENT  
VISIT TO AFRICA. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT I UNDERSTAND  
PERFECTLY THE REASONS WHICH PREVENTED OUR MEETING IN  
ABIDJAN. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE  
TO MEET ON SOME FUTURE OCCASION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR SMITH. HIS  
RE-ASSIGNMENT IS A ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER AND HAS  
ABSOLUTELY NO OTHER SIGNIFICANCE, I CAN ASSURE YOU. I  
VALUE THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH SO HAPPILY EXIST  
BETWEEN IVORY COAST AND THE UNITED STATES AND I AM  
CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL REMAIN UNDISTURBED IN THE YEARS  
AHEAD. PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.  
UNQUOTE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 104092 TOSEC 110400

APPROVE      DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED: AF/W:WGRAMSAY:JWM      -  
CLEARANCES: M/DG:MR. WORTZEL; IO/UNP:JBAKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** S7608963  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE104092  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WGRAMSAY:JWM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760164-0284  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 103217  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ACTION MEMORANDUM - PROPOSED RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF IVORY COAST (S/S NO.7608963 )  
**TAGS:** PFOR, APER, OVIP, US, IV, UN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX), (SMITH, ROBERT S)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006